

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 6:00 p.m.  
Hooker Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Roll Call:**

Members Present: John Hamilton, Cynthia Schultz, Paul Schneller, George Huntington, Paul Schneller, Laura Kamp, Bob Bent, Christine Glaser, Jim Sherman

Regrets: Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, Kent Berglund

Staff Present: Adam Wason

**Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**Public Comment:**

Erika Lee with Bloomington Science Café spoke to the commission regarding the strategic mission of the Café. The focus for 2008-2009 has been sustainability. Erika is also working with Your Art Here and their sustainability campaign. Erika is also looking for speakers for the next three months of Science Café and would appreciate any input from BCOS.

Other speakers at Science Café have included Tom Evans from IU's School of Geography. Suggested speakers from BCOS were Dave Rollo, Diane Henshel, Cairill Mills, Ben Brabson and Keith Clay.

John Hamilton mentioned that it may be nice to have some of the Your Art Here artwork on the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability website.

Pam Warren spoke about her volunteering with the Obama- Citizens for Change campaign and her efforts to increase food donations for the Hoosier Hills Foodbank on behalf of the Obama campaign. Pam would like to increase the amount of food growing locally.

Dave Rollo added that he would like to coordinate efforts of environmental organizations to increase the productivity of the local food growing. Bob Bent asked what the main concerns of local food were and Pam responded that she would like to focus locally. Her main focus would be to focus on getting healthy food to the underprivileged.

**Announcements:**

Dave Rollo noted that the Unified Development Ordinance will be up for review in the coming months. He asked the commission to offer suggestions for amendments to the UDO specifically related to local food production and any other topics the commission would like to offer input on.

Paul asked Dave Rollo where the Peak Oil Task Force was in regards to their report. Dave said that they are currently about two-thirds of the way to completion.

Adam spoke about the progress of the Green Building Ordinance and Team Process Utility Consumption projects.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *STAR*

- On schedule based on the timeline proposed
- Working our way through the joint EC and BCOS Committees
- Working on data collection first draft by February
- Report will be finalized by the end of March
- Draft report will come to full BCOS by April
- Updated framework document with wording of indicators
- Currently working on data sources
- This subcommittee will meet 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 3:30 in the Hooker Room of City Hall
- Still need to report to City Council on the 2007 report

#### *Initiatives*

- The commission spoke about the possible new position of a sustainability coordinator position at the City of Bloomington
- Still seeking chairperson
- Would like the Mayor to push for a Transportation Summit
- Would also like to further the efforts of the Utilities Department with regards to billing information

#### *Education*

- Would like the Commission to support SIREN in their efforts to promote renewable energy in the community
- The Commission unanimously approved this support.
- The committee also talked about the reports from students in Tom Evans class and how we can better this process
- Paul feels strongly that the commission needs to offer more advice, assistance, and guidance to City Administration and Department Heads
- The committee asked Adam to facilitate City Staff and these students to work closely together to provide
- This process would need to be something that is useful for the City staff, BCOS and the student
- Continue discussion of how BCOS can further our efforts with Tom Evans class by working with City Staff members in a close manner
- There is a need to repopulate this committee with the departure of Bob and Christine.

- George would like to commend the efforts of both Christine and Bob on the education committee. Their hard work was one of the most successful endeavors the entire commission undertook. John thanked both Bob and Christine for all of their efforts on behalf of the Commission. The minutes are to reflect the sincere gratitude of both the City Administration and the members of Commission on Sustainability.

The Education Committee met 1-12-09 to discuss plans for 2009.

Present:

BCOS: Bob Bent, Paul Schneller, Christine Glaser, Cynthia Schultz

Environmental Commission: Kriste Lindberg

Volunteer: Jeanne Leimkuhler

This is a Joint BCOS/EC Committee.

1. Proposal for a series of educational seminars and workshops on renewable energy and renewable energy technology for the Bloomington area community by SIREN (Southern Indiana Energy Network).

This would consist of monthly seminars on the science of renewable energy at the MCPL with weekly hands-on workshops in between at the Caldwell Eco-Center.

The initial focus would be on solar power from photovoltaic panels. Other educational programs later on would focus on energy conservation and solar thermal systems.

BCOS is being asked to provide: (1) program preview and critiquing; (2) advertising and promotion; (3) facility reservations; (4) cost of materials; and (5) program evaluation.

We decided last night that this would be a good local activity for BCOS and the EC to sponsor. We would like to get approval tonight from BCOS at large to go ahead with this.

2. Tom Evans' student project: whether to repeat this next fall.

Cynthia thought this would be a good idea—that students are potentially a useful resource—but that there needs to be more focus on items relevant to the BCOS Indicators Report, and that the students need to be better mentored to keep them on track.

Paul raised the question of how to make this information more useful to the City—how to identify the users of information dug up by the students; how to complete the information cycle.

3. Future of the Education Committee

With Christine's and my terms on BCOS ending this month, new Ed. Comm. members are needed. Although Christine and Bob both intend to participate to some extent in future Ed. Comm. activities, to be effective and sustainable this committee should have at least one, and preferably two, members each from BCOS and the EC.

#### **Leadership and Commission Positions**

- A discussion of who should be chair and other suggestions of how to go about suggesting new members to the people who appoint these positions
- The suggestion of nominating Cynthia as new chair was discussed and it was determined that it would make sense for a facilitation of conversations with Council and City Administration in regards to her chairwomanship. Adam will look to arrange these conversations in the coming weeks.
- Cynthia offered brief comments in regards to reflection of accomplishments and how to move forward. She thinks that it is a wonderful time to ask for guidance from City Administration and City Council on how to move forward. She also feels very strongly that we need to find proper competencies and matches for who is appointed to fill the vacant positions. George stated that he agrees that self perpetuation is one of the objectives. He feels that the Commission should be more involved in the appointing process for specific competencies. John further stated that we not focus on environmental issues alone and that the membership makeup represent. We need to work hard to recruit a diverse group of members.
- It was stated that business, neighborhood association and social equity causes be represented. Christine felt strongly that an understanding of sustainability integrates the three e's. Paul added that the appointees need to feel that sustainability is an important concept for any future appointees.
- Jim added that he feels like someone from the development community would be beneficial to the commission. Cynthia offered Dan Killion as a possible suggestion.
- The commission unanimously approved Cynthia Schultz as chairwoman of the commission upon her acceptance and George Huntington as vice-chair.

#### **2009 Priorities**

- John opened the discussion by stating that we should prioritize the list created at the December meeting. Paul suggested that we all get together before the February meeting to begin prioritizing the list. Cynthia suggested a numerical computation of rankings of priorities by each member. Adam will generate an electronic ranking sheet for distribution for the group. Paul feels that the most important priority is to create a template for City Administration to base decisions on in regards to sustainability.
- Each member will rate each priority by A, B, and C rankings. Christine and Bob will also take part in this. The next step after each member submits will be to discuss at the February meeting of BCOS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

The next meeting of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will be on February 10th, 2009 in the McCloskey room of City Hall at 6pm.